THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information to the extent available is given in the enclosed statement. (*See* Appendix CLV Annexure No. 77)

Waiting List for LPG Connections in Rajasthan and Orissa

2230. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons on the waiting lists for LPG connections in Rajasthan and in Orissa as on the 30th June, 1990 and by when the same are likely to be cleared;

(b) what was the demand and supply of cooking gas in these States during 1988, 1989 and also at present during 1990; and

(c) whether there is a backlog, if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when the same is proposed to be cleared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) As on 30th June, 1990 there were approximately 3.94 lakh and 0.34 lakh persons on the waiting list for new LPG connections in Rajasthan and Orissa respectively. New LPG connections are released all over the country in a phased manner, under the annual programme for enrolment of customers. It is not possible to indicate the time by which connections could be released to all the persons in the waiting list, on account of production shortage and insufficient infrastructural facilities.

(b) The Information is given as under:

(In MT)

Year	LPG Demand		LPG Supply	
	Rajasthan	Orissa	Rajasthan	Orissa
1988-89	61,310	12,245	60,444	12,751
1989-90	69,932	16,567	70,054	16,664
1990-91 (April—June)	17,890	4,425	17,618	4,122

(c) While suplies of LPG in Orissa had been generally normal, backlogs did develop in May and July, 1990 due to the severe cyclone and power failure which affected the production in the Vishakhapatnam Refinery and the late receipt of LPG imports at Vishakhapatnam. In Rajasthan, a temporary backlog had developed recently on account of the overall shortfall in the availability of bulk LPG. With the improvement in the availability of the bulk LPG, the backlog is expected to be brought down shortly.

Agitation by the I.O.C. Employees of Southern Region

2231. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Indian Oil Corporation, (Southern Region) have been on a work-to-rule agitation recently to protest against Government's decision to hand over Cochin Refineries products' marketing rights held by IOC to Bharat Petroleum Corporation; and